

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination.

Claims 13, 15 and 24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-12, 14, 16 and 17-23 are deleted and claim 24 is added. Support for the amendments to claim 13 can be found in paragraph [0038] of the specification, for example. Support for the amendments to new claim 24 can be found in original claim 13 and paragraph [0039] of the specification, for example. No new matter is added. In view of at least the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,214,249 (Kasai); claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasai in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,890,790 (Li); claims 13-16 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasai in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,825,217 (217 Inoue) and "Photodoped Chalcogenides as Potential Infrared Holographic Media," Applied Optics Vol. 31(14) pp. 2490-2498 (1992) (Slinger); claims 1-3, 5-12, 17, 18, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasai in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,907,566 (566 Inoue). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As amended, the pending claims are directed to optical recording methods including a hologram recording step.

The applied references fail to disclose or suggest at least an optical recording method including a hologram recording step in which the recording light composed of a single beam and a reference beam is irradiated on the recording layer, where the recording layer includes an optical recording material with chalcogenide glass having metal particles dispersed therein,

and where "the angle of said reference light is varied in said recording step" as required in claim 13.

The Office Action rejected claim 13 alleging (after it refers to the Office Action mailed February 9, 2007) that Kasai teaches the recording holograms using a light source in Fig. 31. See page 7 of the February 9, 2007 Office Action. Applicants note that Kasai does not include a Fig. 31. Additionally, Kasai only briefly mentions a record pattern for holograms (col. 12, lines 8-10), and does not disclose or suggest that "the angle of said reference light is varied in said recording step," as recited in claim 13. Inoue and Slinger likewise do not disclose or suggest the subject matter of claim 13. Thus, claim 13 is patentable over the applied references.

Claim 15 depends from claim 13 and is therefore also patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features it recites.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 13 and 15 is respectfully requested.

New claim 24 is also believed patentable over the applied references. In particular, new claim 24 recites that recording step "wherein the recording light is varied in the direction of depth of the recording layer." Here also, this feature is not disclosed or suggested in Kasai or the other references of record.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination

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